

Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 History and Establishment	1
1.2.1 Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge	1
1.2.2 Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge	3
1.2.3 Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge	4
1.3 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	5
1.3.1 Mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	5
1.3.2 Goals of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	6
1.3.3 The National Wildlife Refuge System	6
1.3.3.1 Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System	6
1.3.3.2 Goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System	7
1.4 Upper Mississippi River/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem	7
1.5 Goals and Objectives for Other Landscape Level Plans	8
1.5.1 Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives	8
1.5.2 Region 3 Fish and Wildlife Resource Conservation Priorities	10
1.6 Purposes of the Refuges	11
1.7 Refuge Complex Vision Statement	11
1.8 Purpose of and Need for the Plan	12
1.9 Existing Partnerships	13
1.10 Legal And Policy Guidance	14
Chapter 2: The Planning Process	15
2.1 Meetings and Other Forums	15
2.2 Planning Issues and Concerns	15
2.2.1 Wildlife Management Issues and Concerns	16
2.2.2 Habitat Management Issues and Concerns	17
2.2.3 Visitor Services Issues and Concerns	18
2.2.4 Other Issues Cited	19
Chapter 3: The Refuge Environment	20
3.1 Geographic/Ecosystem Setting	20
3.1.1 Geography, Topography and Hydrology	20
3.1.2 Surface Hydrology	21
3.1.3 Floodplain Structure and Function	21
3.1.4 Climate	23
3.1.5 Archaeological and Cultural Values	23
3.1.6 Social and Economic Context	26
3.1.6.1 Population	26
3.1.6.2 Employment	27
3.1.6.3 Income and Education	27
3.2 Refuge Resources And Public Uses	27
3.2.1 Refuge Resources	27
3.2.1.1 Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge	27
3.2.1.2 Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge	28
3.2.1.3 Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge	35
3.2.1.4 Conservation Focus Areas Within the Illinois River Basin	35
3.2.2 Fish and Wildlife Resources	35

3.2.2.1 Listed Species	35
3.2.2.2 Waterfowl and Other Migratory Birds	42
3.2.2.3 Native Fish and Mussels	45
3.2.2.4 Mammals	46
3.2.2.5 Reptiles/Amphibians	46
3.2.3 Plant Communities	46
3.2.3.1 Wetland Resources	46
3.2.3.2 Forest Resources	47
3.2.3.4 Grassland Resources	50
3.2.3.5 Savanna Resources	52
3.2.3.6 Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health	54
3.2.4 Visitor Services	55
3.2.4.1 Potential Refuge Visitors	55
3.2.4.2 Administrative Facilities	59
3.3 Current Management	59
3.3.1 Wetland Management	59
3.3.2 Forest Management	63
3.3.3 Grassland Management	63
3.3.4 Savanna Management	64
3.3.5 Fish and Mussel	64
3.3.6 Wildlife Monitoring	65
3.3.7 Visitor Services	65
3.3.7.1 Environmental Education and Interpretation	67
3.3.7.2 Outreach	67
3.3.7.3 Law Enforcement	67
3.4 Wilderness Review	68
Chapter 4: Management Direction	69
4.1. Refuge Management Direction: Goals, Objectives and Strategies	69
4.1.1 Development of Goals, Objectives and Strategies	69
4.1.2 Wildlife Management	70
4.1.2.1 Listed Species	70
4.1.2.2 Native Fish and Mussels	71
4.1.2.3 Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health	72
4.1.3 Habitat Management	75
4.1.3.1 Native Grasslands	75
4.1.3.2 Native Savannas	79
4.1.3.3 Native Forests	80
4.1.3.4 Wetlands	81
4.1.4 Visitor Services Management	83
4.1.4.1 Wildlife-dependent Recreation	83
4.1.4.2 Environmental Education and Interpretation	86
4.1.4.3 Outreach	87
4.1.5 Refuge Administration	89
4.1.5.1 Law Enforcement	89
Chapter 5: Implementation and Monitoring	90
5.1 Personnel Needs	90
5.2 New and Existing Projects	90
5.3 Step-down Management Plans	91
5.4 Partnership Opportunities	92
5.5 Monitoring And Evaluation	93
5.6 Plan Amendment and Revision	93

Appendices	95
Appendix A: Environmental Assessment	97
Appendix B: Glossary	169
Appendix C: Species Lists	175
Appendix D: Compatibility Determinations.....	201
Appendix E: Compliance Requirements	205
Appendix F: RONS and MMS Lists	211
Appendix G: Mailing List	215
Appendix H: List of Preparers.....	219
Appendix I: Resource Conservation Priority List	223
Appendix J: References	229
Appendix K: Summary and Disposition of Comments on Draft CCP	235

Figures

Figure 1: Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges	2
Figure 2: Illinois River Basin Within Upper Mississippi River/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem	7
Figure 3: North American Bird Conservation Initiative-designated Bird Conservation Regions	10
Figure 4: Illinois River Basin Location	20
Figure 5: Watersheds in the Area of the Illinois River NWR	22
Figure 6: Ownership and Authorized Boundaries, Chautauqua NWR and Emiquon NWR	29
Figure 7: Land Cover, Chautauqua NWR and Emiquon NWR	30
Figure 8: Ownership and Authorized Boundaries, Cameron-Billsbach Unit of Chautauqua NWR	31
Figure 9: Land Cover, Cameron-Billsbach Unit of Chautauqua NWR	32
Figure 10: Ownership and Authorized Boundaries, Meredosia NWR	33
Figure 11: Land Cover, Meredosia NWR	34
Figure 12: Conservation Focus Areas, Chautauqua NWR and Emiquon NWR	36
Figure 13: Conservation Focus Areas, Meredosia NWR	37
Figure 14: Focus Area Boundaries, Cameron-Billsbach Unit of Chautauqua NWR	38
Figure 15: Focus Area Boundaries, Lower Sangamon	39
Figure 16: Conservation Boundaries Within Focus Areas, Chautauqua NWR and Emiquon NWR	40
Figure 17: Conservation Boundaries Within Focus Areas, Meredosia NWR	41
Figure 18: Visitor Services Facilities, 2003, Emiquon NWR	56
Figure 19: Visitor Services Facilities, 2003, Chautauqua NWR	57
Figure 20: Visitor Services Facilities, 2003, Meredosia NWR	58
Figure 21: Future Land Cover, Chautauqua NWR and Emiquon NWR	76
Figure 22: Future Land Cover, Cameron-Billsbach Unit of Chautauqua NWR	77
Figure 23: Future Land Cover, Meredosia NWR	78
Figure 24: Future Facility Development, Emiquon NWR	85
Figure 25: Illinois River NWR Complex Staffing, 2003	90

Tables

Table 1: Annual Waterfowl Use Days.....	43
Table 2: Total Number of Visitors to Illinois River NWR Complex, 2002	55
Table 3: Step-down Management Plan Schedule	91

